REMARKS

Claims 10 and 37 are allowed. The remainder of claims have been amended by rewriting claims 32 and 33, and canceling claims 1-9, 11-31, and 34-36. Claims 10, 32, 33, and 37 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 2 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyuki (JP 58-169149) in view of Marx (US 6,261,382 B1). With respect to claims 2 and 31, the same have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. With respect to claim 32, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason. By this amendment, claim 32 has been rewritten to depend from and add further limitation, in a patentable sense, to allowed claim 10. Accordingly, claim 32 is in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyuki in view of Marx and in further view of Oishi (US 6,004,405 A). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason. By this amendment, claim 33 has been rewritten to depend from and add further limitation, in a patentable sense, to allowed claim 10. Accordingly, claim 33 is in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 10 and 37 are allowed.

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Conclusion:

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early

notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

Respectfully submitted,

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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